

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 071047Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9145

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 11549

EXDIS

NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: UNESCO 97TH EXBD: DISCUSSIONS WITH BOARD
MEMBERS

REF: STATE 104317

1. DURING THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE EXBD MEETING, USDEL HAS HAD A NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, WITH BOARD CHAIRMAN WYNTER AND WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOBES. EMPHASIS OF ALL OF ABOVE HAS BEEN ON THE EFFORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TO KEEP POLITICALLY DIVISIVE ISSUES FROM ARISING AT THE SESSION. (WE HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL M'BOW FRIDAY, MAY 9, AT 3:00 P.M.)

2. USDEL CALLED ON DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOBES ON MAY 6 TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON WAYS TO MOVE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO SOME FORM OF CORRECTIVE ACTION ON 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAD CAUSED CONGRESSIONAL SUSPENSION OF FUNDING OF UNESCO. BOARD MEMBER SCHERER DESCRIBED CURRENT US POLITICAL SCENE AND VIEWS OF US NATIONAL COMMISSION AND UNDERLINED SERIOUS CONCERNS OF
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INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY WHICH THEY REFLECTED. HE NOTED

THAT IN OUR VIEW IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME TO OPEN UP JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS ISSUE AND HOPED SOME MOVEMENT AT EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE ON QUESTION OF ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL GROUPS. FOBES INDICATED THAT THERE MIGHT BE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING SOME BOARD MEMBERS TO CIRCULATE AND CONSULT ON A DRAFT RESOLUTION ALONG LINES OF PARAGRAPH 3(B) OF REF-TEL FOR PRESENTATION AT THE TIME THAT THE REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMISSION ON THE INVITATIONS TO CONFERENCES WAS PRESENTED TO THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE BOARD ON MAY 21. HE OBSERVED THAT ISRAEL HAD NOT BEEN WILLING TO MAKE ANY MOVE ON JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS ISSUE AND STATED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO PRODUCE SOME CONTACT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND UNESCO ON THE EXCAVATIONS QUESTION EITHER BY A NEW LEMAIRE REPORT BASED ON INFORMATION HE HAS ALREADY OBTAINED. FOBES STATED THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL THAT SUCH A REPORT MIGHT NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME COMMITMENT TO CONFIDENTIALITY WHICH UNESCO MADE TO ISRAELIS WITH RESPECT TO THE REPORTS PRODUCED AFTER LEMAIRE'S EARLIER VISITS. FOBES ALSO STATED THAT ANOTHER OPTION MIGHT BE TO HAVE AN APPROPRIATE AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ORGANIZE A VISIT TO JERUSALEM INCLUDING SEVERAL EUROPEAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS AS WELL AND BY THEIR EFFORTS ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE ISRAELI CONTACT WITH UNESCO ON THIS ISSUE.

3. BOARD CHAIRMAN WYNTER, WITH WHOM USDEL CONFERRED ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 6, LISTENED CAREFULLY TO BOARD MEMBER SCHERER'S DESCRIPTION OF CONCERNS OF AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY AND PROBLEM OF PRODUCING AT THIS SESSION OF EXBD SOME SIGN OF PROGRESS WHICH WOULD ASSIST USG IN PERSUADING KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TO CORRECT SITUATION CREATED BY RESOLUTIONS OF 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE ON JERUSALEM AND ON ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP. WYNTER RESPONDED THAT THE PRINCIPAL CONCERN OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL WAS, FOR THE PRESENT, NOT SO MUCH WITH FUNDING AS WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE INPUT INTO UNESCO OF THE AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY. HE STRESSED THAT M'BOW WAS PARTICULAR-CONFIDENTIAL

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LY ANXIOUS TO MAKE PRESENT EXBD SESSION A NON-CONTENTIOUS ONE AND ILLUSTRATE THAT UNESCO COULD APPROACH THE SUBSTANCE OF ITS WORK IN A BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THAT ANY SPECIFIC ACTION COULD BE TAKEN BY THIS BOARD SESSION TO SHOW PROGRESS TOWARD CORRECTING SITUATION CAUSING CONCERN AMONG AMERICAN INTELLECTUALS AND CONGRESS, WYNTER NOTED LACK OF ISRAELI

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9146

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 11549

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DISPOSITION TO MAKE ANY MOVE ON ISSUE BUT HAD NO SPECIFIC IDEAS TO OFFER AND URGED THAT INITIATIVES WHICH COULD RE-OPEN SENSITIVE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE BE AVOIDED.

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH VETERAN UK BOARD MEMBER MARTIN, US BOARD MEMBER SCHERER EMPHASIZED SAME CONCERNS HE HAD OUTLINED TO WYNTER AND ADDED THAT HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT, IN ABSENCE OF ANY VISIBLE SIGN THAT EXECUTIVE BOARD URGING CORRECTIVE ACTION AT LEAST ON REGIONAL GROUP ISSUE, MOMENTUM OF OPINION IN UNITED STATES COULD EVEN LEAD TO PROPOSALS FOR US WITHDRAWAL FROM UNESCO. MARTIN DESCRIBED MEETING HE HAD ATTENDED WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL M'BOW ON MAY 2 IN WHICH M'BOW HAD DISPLAYED RELAXED ATTITUDE ON FUNDING PROBLEM AND HAD COMMENTED THAT NO UNESCO MEMBER STATE HAD INFORMED HIM THAT IT WOULD NOT MEET ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. M'BOW HAD INDICATED GREATER CONCERN WITH MIS-UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM IN UNESCO AMONG INTELLECTUAL GROUPS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND TAKEN POSITION THAT A QUIET AND BUSINESS-LIKE SESSION OF EXBD WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM. MARTIN EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET THE EXBD TO TAKE ANY SPECIFIC POSITIVE STEPS ON QUESTION OF REGIONAL GROUPS. HE INDICATED THAT AFTER QUIET SESSION, SOME STEPS MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND FALL SESSION OF EXBD. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE MENTIONED FOBES' SUGGESTION ON OPENING UP SOME MOVEMENT ON THE

JERUSALEM QUESTION.

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5. DELEGATION CONFERRED WITH BELGIAN PERM MEMBER VAN USSEL LATE ON MAY 6 AND US PERMREP JONES EXPLORED THE IDEA OF A RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES HE HAD EARLIER DISCUSSED. VAN USSEL STRESSED THE EFFORTS BY M'BOW AND WYNTER TO AVOID CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES AT THE SESSION, NOTING THAT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA THE ITEM ON EDUCATION IN ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THAT A FAVORABLY COMPOSED GROUP WAS HANDLING THE CHILEAN ISSUE (SEE SEPTTEL). HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE ISSUE OF PLO STATUS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY SIDETRACKED. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE TO PUT DOWN A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD PRODUCE DEBATE OR COUNTER-DRAFT. HE DID NOT EXCLUDE, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT IS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD ON MAY 13 A RESOLUTION RELATING TO IT AND MAKING REFERENCE TO UNESCO PRINCIPLES AND TO THE DESIRABILITY OF PARTICIPATION BY ALL MEMBERS OF UNESCO IN ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THEIR REGION MIGHT BE ADOPTED. VAN USSEL STATED THAT IN HIS VIEW THE BEST WAY TO AVOID CONTROVERSY OVER SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD BE TO HAVE THE SECRETARIAT PREPARE A DRAFT AT THE REQUEST OF A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATIONS FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH HIS EC-9 COLLEAGUES, AND WITH THE NORWEGIAN AND THE DAHOMEYAN PERMREPS. SCHERER OBSERVED THAT SUCH A RESOLUTION, WHILE IN KEEPING WITH TENOR OF THIS SESSION, COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE SITUATION THAT WE FACE IN RESTORING TO NORMALITY THE US RELATIONSHIP WITH UNESCO. VAN USSEL STATED THAT IT WAS, IN HIS VIEW, THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION OF THE AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY WHICH WAS OF PRINCIPAL CONCERN TO UNESCO AND THAT THE FUNDING ISSUE WAS SEEN AS ONE WHICH WOULD TAKE CARE OF ITSELF IN DUE COURSE. SCHERER UNDERLINED THE GREAT CONCERN

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OF THE AMERICAN INTELLECTUALS INTERESTED IN UNESCO WITH THE PRESENT ATTITUDES PREVAILING IN THE UNITED STATES WITH REGARD TO UNESCO AND SAID HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT THESE ATTITUDES MIGHT LEAD TO PRESSURES FOR US WITHDRAWAL FROM UNESCO, IF THERE WERE NO VISIBLE SIGNS OF UNESCO CORRECTIVE ACTION.

6. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING EXTENDED CONVERSATIONS, USDEL HAS HAD NUMEROUS INFORMAL EXCHANGES WITH OTHER UNESCO MEMBERS INCLUDING SOVIET, EGYPTIAN AND INDIAN BOARD MEMBERS, WHO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF A DEPOLITICIZED SESSION. EGYPTIAN TOOK CREDIT FOR RESTRAINING PLO FROM PRESSING THE ADVANCEMENT OF THEIR STATUS. INDIAN, AT ONE POINT, INQUIRED ANXIOUSLY WHETHER US PLANNING AN INITIATIVE ON THE QUESTION OF THE ABSENCE OF ISRAEL FROM THE LIST PROPOSED FOR INVITATION OF THE COUNTRIES BORDERING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN. SOVIET ASSERTED THAT ANY BROACHING OF ISRAELI ISSUE COULD PROVOKE ARABS TO INTRODUCE PLO ITEM. USDEL MEMBERS HAVE ALSO HAD INFORMAL CONTACT WITH ISRAELI DELEGATE BUT HE RAISED NO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND NONE WERE RAISED BY USDEL.

7. USDEL IS EXAMINING RESULTS OF FOREGOING CONVERSATIONS AND WILL SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS MORNING MAY 7.

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